



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 04 September 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Federal Trade Commission released a survey on September 3, showing that 27.3 million Americans have been victims of identity theft in the last five years, including 9.9 million people in the last year alone. (See item [3](#))

DHS/IAIP Update Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *September 03, Reuters* — **Department of Energy probing price jump at gas pumps.** Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham told a congressional committee on Wednesday, September 3, that the 12-cent jump in just one week in the average national gasoline price heading into the Labor Day weekend prompted the department to look into the matter. "The nature of this (price) fluctuation struck me as being unusually large as well and in need of greater explanation," Abraham said. He said the power blackout that shut down several oil refineries, the disruption in a major Southwest gasoline pipeline, and strong motor fuel demand were responsible for some of the jump in gasoline prices. Deputy Energy Secretary Kyle McSlarrow told the panel that the Energy Department is working with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in the probe. He said **the gasoline supply problems caused by the blackout and the pipeline disruption "added up to a predictable increase" in pump prices.** "The question is, and what we'll look into and work with our colleagues at the FTC about, is whether anybody took advantage of the situation in terms of market manipulation," McSlarrow said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A20203-2003Sep 3.html>

2. *September 02, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* — **NRC warns of worm infection. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has issued an Information Notice to alert nuclear power plant operators to a potential vulnerability of their computer network server to infection by the Microsoft SQL Server worm.** The vulnerability was demonstrated by a January 2003 event at the shutdown Davis–Besse nuclear power plant. The worm infection increased data traffic in the site's network, resulting in the plant's Safety Parameter Display System and plant process computer being unavailable for several hours. FirstEnergy Nuclear, the licensee at Davis–Besse, investigated the incident and found a contractor established an unprotected computer connection to its corporate network, through which the worm reached the plant network. The investigation also found plant computer engineering personnel were unaware of a security patch that prevented the worm from working. **Corrective actions include requiring documentation of all external connections to the internal network, installing an additional layer of security software, and ensuring computer personnel review new security patches and install them promptly.** Information Notice 2003–14, "Potential of Plant Computer Network to Worm Infection," will soon be available at:

[http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/info- notices/2003/.](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/info- notices/2003/)

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2003/03-1 08.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

3. *September 03, Federal Trade Commission* — **FTC releases survey of identity theft in U.S.** The Federal Trade Commission released a survey on Wednesday, September 3, showing that 27.3 million Americans have been victims of identity theft in the last five years, including 9.9 million people in the last year alone. **According to the survey, last year's identity theft losses to businesses and financial institutions totaled nearly \$48 billion and consumer victims reported \$5 billion in out-of-pocket expenses.** While most identity thieves use consumer personal information to make purchases, the survey reports that 15 percent of all victims – almost 1.5 million people in the last year – reported that their personal information was misused in nonfinancial ways, to obtain government documents, for example, or on tax forms. The most common nonfinancial misuse took place when the thief used the victim's name and identifying information when stopped by law enforcement or caught committing a crime. Sixty-seven percent of identity theft victims – more than 6.5 million victims in the last year –

report that existing credit card accounts were misused and 19 percent reported that checking or savings accounts were misused. Survey: <http://www.ftc.gov/os/2003/09/synovatereport.pdf>
Source: <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2003/09/idtheft.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

Transportation Sector

4. *September 03, Dow Jones Newswires* — **Airline traffic rises in August.** Airlines, especially low-cost carriers, continued to fly more passengers in August, showing that the battered industry may manage to skirt more bankruptcies. **Among discount airlines, Airtran Holdings Inc. saw revenue passenger miles, which represent one paying passenger flown one mile, up 32.6 percent in August. Major carriers saw some improvement, with revenue passenger miles at Continental Airlines up 1.7 percent.** American Airlines, the world's largest airline, saw traffic fall 1.7 percent, though American cut capacity by 6.5 percent as it whittles costs. **But the proof of an eventual industry turnaround will be in traffic data for the autumn, when vacationers go back home and business travelers traditionally hit the road. Airline experts have shied away from even guessing whether business travel will improve this year.** The autumn may be particularly suspenseful for discount airlines, which sometimes do not have the size or service to attract business fliers. Still, August highlighted the trend of market share moving to discount carriers.
Source: <http://www.wilmingtonstar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20030903/APF/309030975&cachetime=5>
5. *September 03, The Pittsburgh Channel* — **Mechanics' strike could shut down US Airways.** With US Airways already on shaky ground in Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Action News has learned that a strike is being discussed if local mechanic work goes out of state. WTAE's Sheldon Ingram reports that the airline is strongly considering sending heavy maintenance work for its Airbus fleet to an outside source, instead of having the work done locally. The International Association of Machinists said such a move would force them to walk out, which would eventually shut down the carrier. **US Airways said that it must consider outsourcing mechanical work for the Airbus fleet because it is still recovering from Chapter 11 bankruptcy.** The company said it must determine whether buying hardware, training employees and buying a new maintenance facility is cheaper than outsourcing to a third party.
Source: <http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/travelgetaways/2453143/detail.html>
6. *September 03, The Business Journal of Phoenix* — **Employees get bonuses for America West performance.** The Tempe-based airline late Tuesday announced that it ranked among the top three major airlines in all operational statistics for the second month in a row as reported in the U.S. Department of Transportation Air Travel Consumer Report. As a result, all 12,000 America West employees will receive a \$50 bonus for meeting operational goals for the second consecutive month. America West's on-time performance was 82 percent for the month of July 2003, up 4 percent from July 2002. Customer complaints to the DOT fell by 70 percent over the year. Skywest led the on-time performance statistics with a percentage of 91.6, followed by JetBlue at 88.4. Among major carriers. Southwest was first at 84 percent, followed by Northwest Airlines at 82.7 and America West. America West

Airlines serves 92 destinations in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Source: <http://phoenix.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2003/09/01/daily19.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

7. *September 03, Associated Press* — After merger, DHL cuts jobs. DHL said Tuesday that it will lay off 2,870 U.S. workers because of its acquisition of the ground-express delivery operations of Airborne Inc. The layoffs represent about 6 percent of the company's total U.S. work force of more than 44,000 employees, spokeswoman Kim Levy said. **The change is effective immediately, Levy said, adding that DHL's pickup and delivery services will be handled by couriers servicing Seattle-based Airborne's delivery network, which DHL bought August 15 for \$1.05 billion.** DHL is a unit of Bonn-based Deutsche Post AG, Europe's largest postal service. The August 15 acquisition expanded Deutsche Post's ability to compete in the United States, where it plans to expand in the ground delivery business.

Source: <http://www.sunspot.net/business/bal-bz.dhl03sep03.0.7279008.story?coll=bal-business-headlines>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Food Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

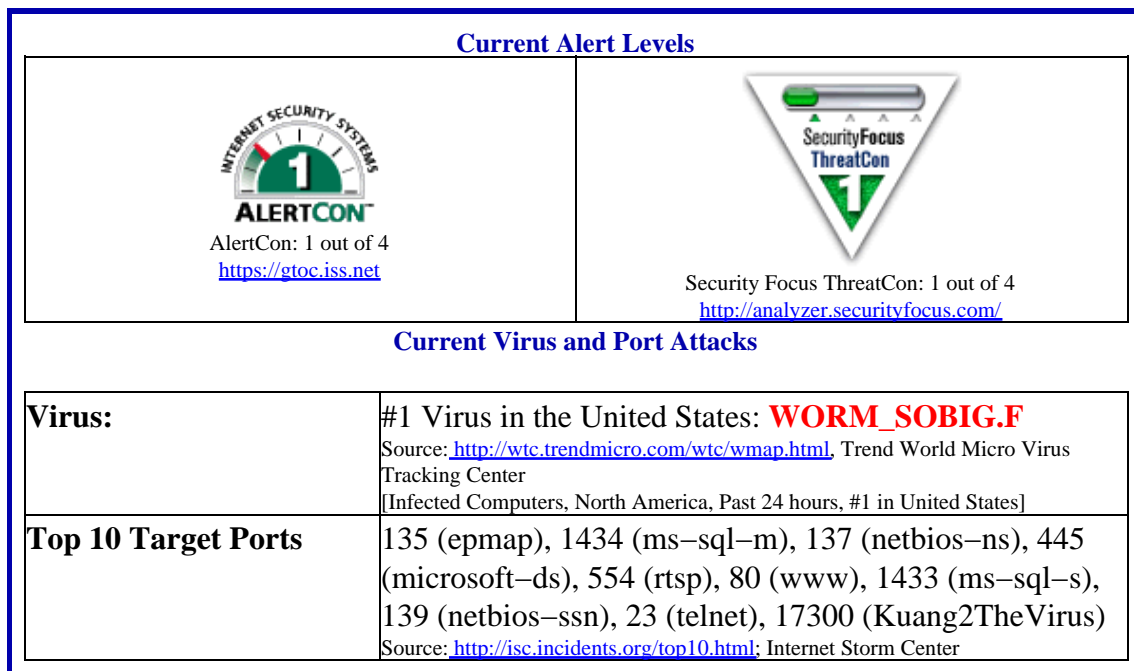
Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information and Telecommunications Sector

Nothing to report.

Internet Alert Dashboard



[\[Return to top\]](#)

General Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS/IAIP Products &Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assesments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on

material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

[DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive](#) – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

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